
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES, AND
HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED TO COLLABORATE TO ESTABLISH A
NUTRIENT RECYCLING CENTER PILOT PROJECT.

1 WHEREAS, the State supports efforts that strengthen
2 Hawaii's self-sustainability; and

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4 WHEREAS, self-sustainability is furthered by efforts that
5 develop Hawaii's own secure production of food, fiber, and fuel;
6 and

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8 WHEREAS, nutrient recycling fosters agricultural production
9 by building soil health and fertility; and

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11 WHEREAS, without nutrient recycling, nutrients flow from
12 farmland into aquifers and shorelines, which depletes nutrients
13 in the soil and forces farmers to use commercial fertilizers
14 that consume fossil fuels during fertilizer production; and

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16 WHEREAS, the use of commercial fertilizers decreases soil
17 health and species diversity, creates increased pesticide use,
18 and reduces the nutrient density of food; and

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20 WHEREAS, nutrient recycling puts end products back into the
21 land-based food chain instead of generating waste or causing
22 pollution as with food waste; and

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24 WHEREAS, nutrient recycling benefits local agriculture by
25 lowering production costs, increasing yields, and leaving the
26 soil in revitalized condition; and

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28 WHEREAS, nutrient recycling also reduces waste streams; and
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1 WHEREAS, research conducted at nutrient recycling centers
2 focuses on a whole system of agriculture, identifying the
3 optimum overall solution instead of one that just produces the
4 highest crop yield; and
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6 WHEREAS, a nutrient recycling center in Hawaii would
7 promote environmental, economic, and social benefits for the
8 State along with food and energy security for Hawaii residents;
9 now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Chairperson of the
14 Board of Agriculture is requested to collaborate with the Hawaii
15 Farmers Union United and the University of Hawaii College of
16 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to establish a nutrient
17 recycling center pilot project on Maui; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the nutrient recycling center
20 be located near prime agriculture land on Maui; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the nutrient recycling center
23 pilot project:
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- 25 (1) Create an inventory of available resources for farming
26 inputs;
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- 28 (2) Identify key stakeholders in the State and throughout
29 the counties;
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- 31 (3) Segregate materials to stockpile and process,
32 including segregation of organic and non-organic
33 inputs and beneficial microbial inoculants for
34 remediation of potential contaminants;
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- 36 (4) Develop methodology for complete composting process
37 and distribution;
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- 39 (5) Collaborate with local restaurants to establish farm-
40 to-table recycling of nutrients;
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- 1 (6) Develop best use practices for compost and local
2 nutrient production;
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4 (7) Quantify the economic impacts of nutrient recycling;
5 and
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7 (8) Consider the issues of regulatory barriers, landfill
8 solid waste diversion, and "buy local" marketing and
9 outreach; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the nutrient recycling center
12 pilot project location be used as an information center for
13 local farmers to disseminate information to Maui farmers as well
14 as collect and utilize the expertise of local farmers and
15 professionals in the agricultural industry; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the nutrient recycling center
18 pilot project offer hands-on workshops for local farmers; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
21 and Hawaii Farmers Union United are requested to submit a report
22 of findings and recommendations related to the nutrient
23 recycling center pilot project, including any proposed
24 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
25 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
29 Board of Agriculture, Dean of the University of Hawaii College
30 of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and President of
31 the Hawaii Farmers Union United Board of Directors.

